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HOUSEKEEPERS' CHAT

Friday, October 27, 1933

U. S. Department of Agriculture

(FOR BROADCAST USE ONLY)

SUBJECT: "HOLLOWE'EN HINTS." Information from the Bureau of Home Economics and the Extension Service, U. S. D. A.

"Bolt and bar the front door,
Draw the curtains tight.
Wise folks are in before
Moonrise tonight.

Hollowe'en, Hollowe'en,
Apples- a-bob,
Elves at the keyhole,
And imps on the hob."

If that verse doesn't make you long for a good, old-fashioned Hollowe'en party, you're not in the mood for merriment. Of all the holidays in the year this October festival of ghosts and goblins is the favorite for easy and inexpensive but very merry parties--parties for the children or parties for their elders, small family parties or big neighborhood parties, whichever you prefer. The season of year plus all the Hallowe'en traditions provide the makings of a very gay party at very small expense.

For example, take this matter of party decorations. At almost any other time of year extensive decorations for the house run into money. But at Hollowe' nature steps in as interior decorator and she charges little or nothing for her services. Cornstalks and pumpkins, autumn leaves and piles of bright fall fruits and vegetables--here are your decorations from your own gardens and fields or from the highways and byways. The traditional color scheme for Hollowe'en is orange and black--a very cheerful color scheme for a supper table. You can even carry it out in the menu as I'm going to show you in just about two minutes.

If you want favors at your party, you have a wide choice of Hollowe'en symbols to choose from--black cats, Jack-o-lanterns, witches on broomsticks and so on.

As for games and entertainments, they're too numerous to try to describe here. For children's parties, you'll find that the traditional stunts are always good--bobbing for apples, apples on a string, fortunes from the witches' cauldron and ghost stories. Generally, the spookier the atmosphere at the party, the better the youngsters like it. That goes for all but the very small children, who are likely to get a bad scare at the ghost-goblin-witch tradition. Both grown-ups and children enjoy masquerades or old-clothes parties. And almost every age enjoys doing the old-time dances after supper.

I'm sure you and I both remember the time when Hallowe'en in many places brought out gangs of urchins who roamed the streets until late hours of night overturning ash cans, putting tick-tacks on windows, ringing fire alarms and generally damaging property. Many cities now have substituted a municipal Hallowe'en parade in which all children take part for this rowdyism. The idea

has worked out very well and given a great deal of enjoyment to the children taking part as well as to the onlookers. If your family is taking part in such a celebration, you might serve refreshments -- simple refreshments, of course -- at home afterwards.

I asked the Menu Specialist to suggest some menus for an evening Hallowe'en gathering, featuring the orange and black color scheme if possible. She has planned three sets of simple and inexpensive refreshments, two menus for grown-ups, and one for the youngsters.

See what you think of this first suggestion. A big bowl of orange and date salad with fruit salad dressing. With the salad serve cheese and brown bread sandwiches. Make the filling of grated yellow sharp cheese and mixed with salad dressing. For dessert, fresh cider or hot spiced cider and gingerbread cup cakes.

Did you notice how the colors worked in? Now notice this second simple menu. Apricot ice. That stands for the orange color. Chocolate cake. That stands for the black. Then, hot coffee, black licorice and orange candies and nuts.

Menu number three is for the youngsters. They'll have large round cookies baked with currants on top making a Jack-o-lantern face. And they'll have either cocoa with melted marshmallows on top or an orange fruit drink. Then they'll have molasses popcorn balls on wooden skewers.

That reminds me. I've had two inquiries about special Hallowe'en salads. For its color I think you can't beat that orange and grated carrot gelatin salad. Cider gelatin salad is another delicious salad for any autumn meal. If you want something pretty fancy, you can fix up a Jack-o-lantern salad by hollowing out red apples or oranges, cutting a jack-o-lantern face in the surface and filling the lanterns with fruit salad topped off with whipped cream that makes it look like a white cap. The openings in the Jack-o-lantern's face you can fill with bits of pimento, green pepper or cherry.

I mentioned the game of apples on a string for the youngsters. Doughnuts on a string will provide some hilarity for the grown-ups. Suspend a stout string across a corner of the room and let each guest try to eat one of the doughnuts directly from the string without the aid of his hands.

Monday: "Iron-Rich Foods for Winter Meals."

